

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02337 170816Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 /067 W
-----044166 170820Z /13
R 170805Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7104

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 02337

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TW
SUBJ: MINISTER Y. S. SUN COMMENTS ON CHOICE FOR PREMIER

1. AT DINNER APRIL 11, AMBASSADOR SOUNDED OUT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS Y.S. SUN ABOUT WHOM CHIANG CHING-KUO MIGHT APPOINT AS PREMIER AFTER HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT ON MAY 20. AMBASSADOR SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT SUN HIMSELF HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS A STRONG POSSIBILITY.

2. SUN ANSWERED THAT HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THE POSITION AND WOULD DECLINE IF ASKED TO TAKE IT. HE IS STILL RECOVERING FROM THE SERIOUS HEART ATTACK HE SUFFERED IN 1977. FURTHERMORE, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS. THE PREMIER SHOULD BE EXPERIENCED IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF HE ALSO HAD FOREIGN RELATIONS BACKGROUND.

3. SUN STATED THAT THE PERSON THE PRESIDENT SELECTS WILL NOT BE A FIGUREHEAD. THE PRESIDENT WILL, OF COURSE, PROVIDE POLICY GUIDANCE AND WILL BE IN ON EVERY MAJOR DECISION. BUT IT WILL BE THE PREMIER WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING THE MACHINERY OF THE GOVERNMENT, FOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 02337 170816Z

COORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SEVERAL MINISTRIES AND FOR BEING RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE. IF THINGS GO WRONG, HE WILL BE BLAMED AND IN SUCH CASE MIGHT WELL HAVE TO BE REPLACED. THE FACT THAT HE WILL BE VULNERABLE IS IMPORTANT SINCE IT WILL INVEST THE PRESIDENCY WITH THE DIGNITY AND PRESTIGE THAT COME FROM NOT BEING VULNERABLE TO CRITICISM AND ATTACK.

SUN SAID AT ONE POINT THAT PREMIER CHIANG HAD DECIDED TO MOVE UP TO THE PRESIDENCY, AMONG OTHER REASONS, JUST TO AVOID THAT VULNERABILITY WHICH HE, PRESIDENT YEN AND OTHERS THOUGHT COULD BE DESTABILIZING, GIVEN CCK'S UNIQUE POSITION.

4. IN SELECTING A PREMIER, ACCORDING TO SUN, THE PRESIDENT ALSO MUST CONSIDER THAT HE MUST BEGIN TO GROOM SOMEONE TO REPLACE HIM. THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE PREMIER WILL BE THE HEIR-APPARENT, FOR THE PRESIDENT MAY WELL DECIDE THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP AN EYE ON SEVERAL CANDIDATES. IN FACT, THE PREMIER MAY BE SELECTED NOT BECAUSE HE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR HIGHER OFFICE BUT BECAUSE HE IS A PERSON WHO DOES NOT COVET HIGHER OFFICE. HE WILL BE CHOSEN BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH THE PRESIDENT AND/OR HIS TALENTS AS AN ADMINISTRATOR AND HIS FAMILIARITY WITH THE OPERATIONS OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. SUN COMMENTED THAT IN THIS EVENT CLOSE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE NEW MINISTERS, FOR AMONG THEM MAY BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT. AS FOR THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT BEING A MAN TO WATCH, SUN MAY HAVE MEANT TO ELIMINATE HIM WITH THE COMMENT; "HE WILL BE TAIWANESE."

5. ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE CANDIDATES FOR PREMIER, SUN DID NOT APPEAR TO CONSIDER THAT THE PREMIER MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE KMT CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE. HE MENTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 02337 170816Z

TIONED AS A LEADING CANDIDATE K. T. LI, FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CURRENTLY MINISTER-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO; K. H. YU, GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF CHINA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; AND S. K. HUANG, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. HE ALSO DID NOT RULE OUT C.S. LIN, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (TAIWANESE); AND F. H. CHANG, MINISTER OF INTERIOR (TAIWANESE). HE DID ELIMINATE W. Y. NI, PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN. Y. K. LIN, MAYOR OF TAIPEI, WHO ALSO HAS BEEN MENTIONED, IS, IN SUN'S OPINION A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR. WHEN LEE HUAN'S NAME WAS MENTIONED, SUN REFERRED TO HIS ROLE IN THE ELECTION PROBLEMS OF NOVEMBER, 1977.

6. SUN'S FINAL COMMENT WAS THAT HE HAS NO INSIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHOM CHIANG IS CONSIDERING. ALL OF THE LEADING CANDIDATES ARE QUALIFIED AND ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF CHIANG BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE ALSO IN THAT CATEGORY. CHIANG'S DECISION PROBABLY WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL AFTER HE HAS BEEN INAUGURATED. UNGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI02337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780163-1212
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaaboox.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b4488ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2940899
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER Y. S. SUN COMMENTS ON CHOICE FOR PREMIER
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b4488ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014